

SLPAB NEWS BULLETIN

Spring 2000

(Prepared especially for the CSHA Annual State Conference)

ABOUT THE STAFF

The Board is authorized to staff four full-time employees and one seasonal staff person to handle all of our workload (i.e., licensing, enforcement, legislative and regulatory implementation, budget analysis, etc.). The staff also manages the administrative office procedures dealing with travel, meetings, and required departmental reports and correspondence. Given the fact that the Board licenses and registers over 14,000 practitioners, we have an on-going challenge to keep our heads above water. Our two incoming phone lines are continuously ringing with questions regarding licensure requirements, continuing professional development, and scope of practice issues. We would like to thank the public for being patient when trying to reach our office; we are doing our best to provide quality consumer assistance.

Marilee Monagan, Executive Officer
Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Board Analyst
Lori Garrett, Management Services Technician
Wanda Hawkins, Licensing Technician
Lora Cardenas, Seasonal Assistant

DO YOU KNOW THE LAWS AND REGS?

All licensed California Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists are required to comply with the "Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Licensure Act." It is necessary that you keep abreast of the changing laws and rules as governed by the SLPAB.

Important new changes in the laws and regulations you should know:

- If you are ASHA certified, you may apply for licensure under the equivalent qualifications provision
- RPE applicants will now be issued a temporary license (see separate article on RPE supervision)

The current Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists Licensure Act was mailed to all licensees on March 6, 2000

1999 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AB 124 (Ackerman) which restored the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board and extended its sunset date to July 1, 2002, was signed by Governor Davis and became effective January 1, 2000.

AB 466 (Mazzoni), which specifies that a school district governing board or county office of education, under certain conditions, may contract with or employ an individual who holds a license issued by the SLPAB and has earned a master's degree in communication disorders to provide speech and language services, was signed by Governor Davis and became effective January 1, 2000.

AB 545 (Robert Pacheco), which transferred the powers and duties of the Hearing Aid Dispensers Examining Committee to the Director of Consumer Affairs and established a Hearing Aid Dispensers Advisory Commission within DCA, was signed by Governor Davis and became effective January 1, 2000.

2000 LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

SB 1046 (Murray), which would create a California Board of Occupational Therapy within the Department of Consumer Affairs to regulate the licensure of occupational therapists and the certification of occupational therapy assistants, has passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly.

The Assembly Consumer Protection Committee is authoring AB 2888, the DCA omnibus bill which contains technical changes to the Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Licensure Act.

AB 2697 (Cardoza), is a clean-up measure to AB 545 of 1999. It would make technical changes to the Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau within DCA and would reconstitute the Hearing Aid Dispensers Advisory Commission as the Hearing Aid Dispensers Advisory Committee.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 19, 2000 – Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Hearing, 400 R Street, Suite 1030, Sacramento, 1:30 p.m.

April 29, 2000 - NTE Exam

June

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE OUR CORRECT ADDRESS

SUPERVISING AN RPE

Effective January 1, 2000, all RPEs are now issued one temporary license upon approval of an application filed with the Board. All changes to the RPE's experience, with the exception of adding a setting, must be made on a Notification of Change form and submitted to the Board. To add a setting to the experience, the RPE applicant and the supervisor must submit a written letter signed by both parties, indicating the name and address of the additional setting. Within four weeks from the time the changes are received by the Board, the RPE applicant and the supervisor will receive an updated approval letter or notification of disapproval. All changes require prior approval unless working in an exempt setting. If the supervisor or the RPE applicant are not notified by the Board regarding the change in experience, please contact our office. There are no additional fees associated with a change in experience.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS IN FULL SWING!!

Licensees are in the process of acquiring hours to meet the continuing professional development (CPD) requirement. The first license renewal cycle in which the CPD requirement is due affects individuals whose license expires in 2001. Since the requirements are relatively new, the Board receives numerous calls from licensees requesting clarification. Here are answers to the most commonly asked questions:

Q. If my license expires in 2001, how many hours will I need and when can I start accumulating these hours?

A. A licensee will need 12 hours by 2001 and may start accumulating the hours after April 12, 1999.

Q. What if my license expires in 2002?

A. A licensee will need 24 hours by 2002 and may start accumulating the hours after the license expiration date in 2000.

Q. Do I need to submit records of course completion to SLPAB's office?

A. No. Unless you are audited by the Board, a licensee does not need to submit course completion records. A licensee will be required to sign under penalty of perjury on the renewal notice that he or she has completed the necessary CPD hours. A licensee must retain the course completion documents for two years from the expiration date for which the hours were obtained.

Q. Which providers are approved to offer courses applicable to my license renewal?

A. The Board has approved 63 providers in-house. Hours obtained through providers approved by ASHA, AAA and CMA's CME, as well as courses taken at institutions of higher learning are applicable.

The full text of the continuing professional development requirements are included in the licensure act. For a current list of providers approved by the Board, please contact our office at (916) 263-2666.

AN UPDATE ON THE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT REGULATION PROCESS

On February 3, 2000, the Board filed the proposed requirements for the speech-language pathology assistant registration category with the Office of Administrative Law. The regulation language was developed with input from ASHA, CSHA, CDE, CTC, the Advisory Commission on Special Education, and representatives from California community colleges. On February 24, 2000, the regulation documents were mailed to interested parties for public comment. All written comments must be received at the Board's office by April 17, 2000, or may be submitted at the public hearing on April 19, 2000. The regulation adoption process can take up to one year from the filing date depending on the comments received by the public and the complexity of any necessary changes. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the proposed regulation documents, please contact our office.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!!

ALL RPE Temporary License Applications **MUST** be approved by the Board before the applicant starts work under the direction of a licensed supervisor.

If a licensee has moved, the law requires that the Board be notified, **in writing, within 30 days of the change of address**. Without a correct address of record, you **may not** receive your license renewal notice in the mail. The renewal notice is sent as a courtesy to licensees 90 days prior to the license expiration. A licensee should renew their license four to six weeks prior to the expiration date to allow for processing time.

Please make sure you have our address! The Board office moved to its present address in February of 1999. Any mail that is sent to our old address will not be forwarded by the post office but will be returned to the sender. See our correct address indicated below.

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board

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